

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910968221603321
Autore	Abu Julayyil Hamdi
Titolo	Thieves in retirement : a novel / / Hamdi Abu Golayyel ; translated from the Arabic by Marilyn Booth
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Syracuse : , : Syracuse University Press, , 2006
ISBN	9780815608264 0815608268
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 126 pages)
Collana	Middle Eastern literature in translation
Altri autori (Persone)	BoothMarilyn
Disciplina	892.736
Soggetti	Arabic fiction - 21st century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Front ; Contents; Translator's Acknowledgments; Introduction; Thieves in Retirement
Sommario/riassunto	Hamdi Abu Golayyel offers a striking portrait of a marginalized Egyptian community, bringing to life the absurd and tragic characters who occupy the margins of society while paying tribute to a historical Cairene neighborhood. By turns comic, reverential, beautiful, and tawdry, the novel reveals a social climate where ruthlessness and goodness seem almost indistinguishable and humanity is on display in all its rich variety. The novelist's distinctive vision of Egypt's various postmonarchy political regimes and ideologies shapes this dark comedy of human relations and underground pursuits in late twentieth-century Egypt. Through intricate levels of allegory, puns, and double meanings, Abu Golayyel effectively plays on the rhetoric associated with the nationalist government of Gamal Abdel Nasser, including the post-Nasser turn toward international capitalism with its a consumer-oriented economy-and movement away from the workers' rights orientation of the 1960s. This novel represents a new voice and a new stage in contemporary Arabic literature, as it criticizes official ideologies, whether socialist, capitalist, or Islamist. Abu Golayyel's cast of memorable characters embodies the arbitrariness of life and the search for purpose and dignity in a social milieu that offers little of either. Marilyn Booth's translation fluently renders the novel's delicate levels of diction and rhythm, making this brilliant Egyptian novel

available to a much-deserved wider audience.
